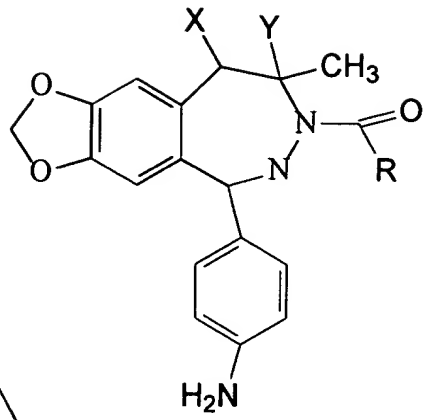


(I)

wherein

X and Y each stand for hydrogen or together form a double bond;

R is a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-R^1-$, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2 and

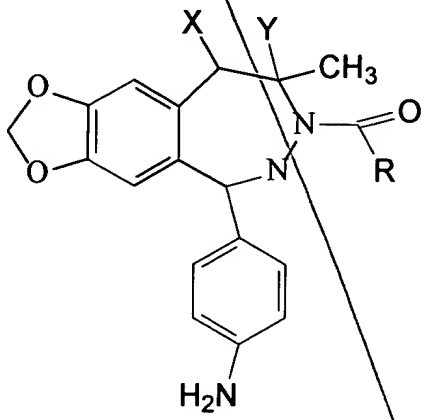
R^1 is halogen or a group of the formula NR^2R^3, wherein R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent;

with the proviso that if X and Y together form a double bond, then n is 1 or 2; or n is 0 and one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and

one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent;

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

8. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of a 1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine compound of the formula I,



(I)

wherein X and Y each stand for hydrogen or together form a double bond;

R is a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-R^1$, wherein

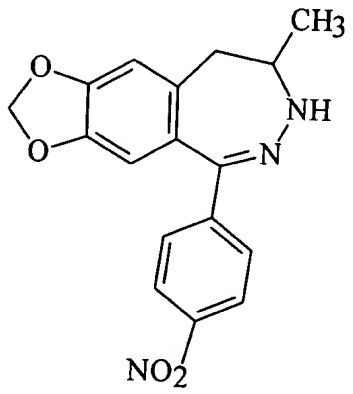
n is 0, 1 or 2 and

R^1 is halogen or a group of the formula NR^2R^3, wherein R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent; with the proviso that if X and Y together

form a double bond, then n is 1 or 2; or n is 0 and one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent; and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof;

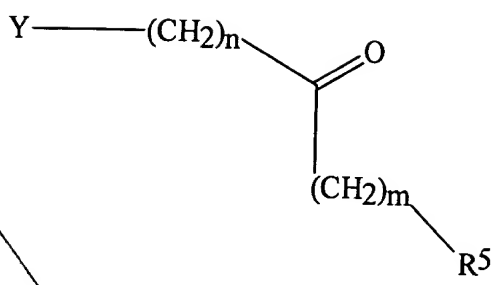
characterized in that

a) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a halo atom or a pyridyl group, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2, m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula III



III

is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI

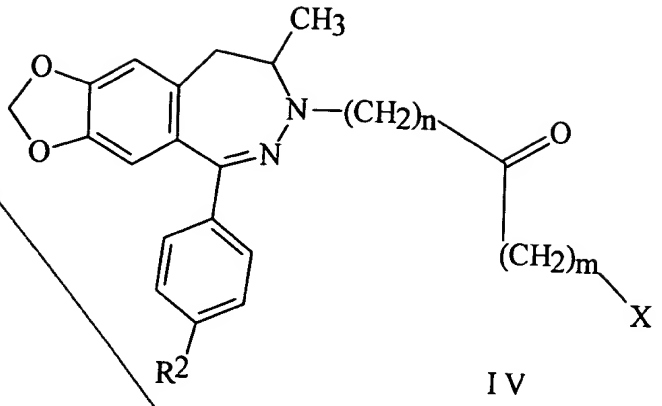


VI

wherein Y represents a leaving group, R^5 is a halo atom or a pyridyl group; or

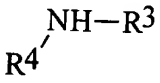
b) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for an imidazolyl group, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 0, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole; or

c) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein R^3, R^4, n and m are as defined in Claim 1, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI, wherein Y and R^5 represent, independently, a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, and the obtained benzodiazepine compound of the formula IV



IV

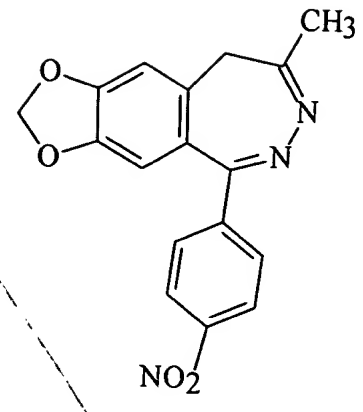
wherein X stand for a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, is reacted with an amine of the formula VII



VII

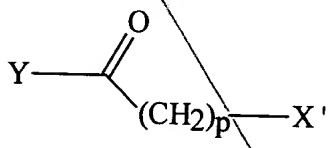
wherein R^3 and R^4 are as stated above; or

d) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula II



II

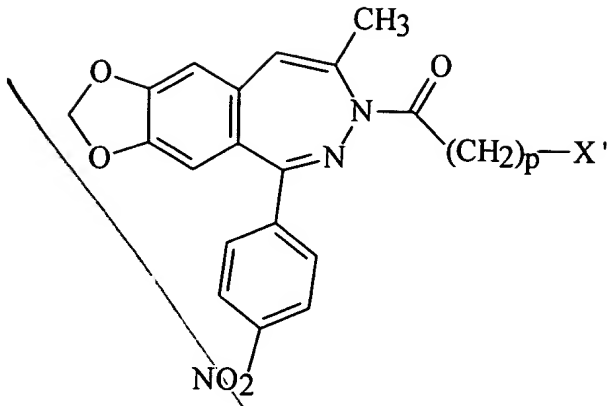
is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX



IX

wherein Y represents a leaving group, X' stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2; or

e) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein R^7, R^8 and p are as defined in Claim 1, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the formula II is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX, wherein each of Y and X' represents, independently, a leaving group, p is as stated above, and the obtained acylated compound of the formula VIII



VIII

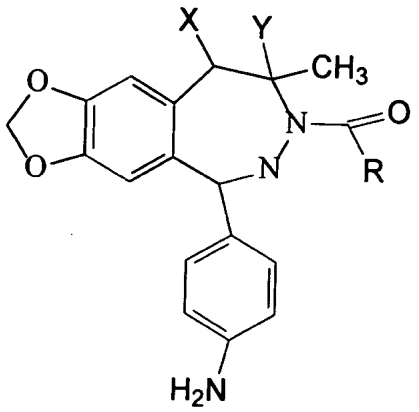
wherein X' and p are as defined above, is reacted with an amine of the formula HNR^7R^8, wherein R^7 and R^8 are as stated above;

and, optionally the compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents a nitro group, R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 1, is transformed into a compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 stands for an amino group, by reduction;

and, optionally the compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents an amino group, R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 1, is reacted with a C_{1-4} alkanecarboxylic acid or a reactive acylating salt thereof;

and, optionally, a base of the formula I is converted to a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt or liberated from the acid addition salt.

9. (Three times Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula I



(I)

wherein

X and Y each stand for hydrogen or together form a double bond;

R is a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-R^1-$, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2 and

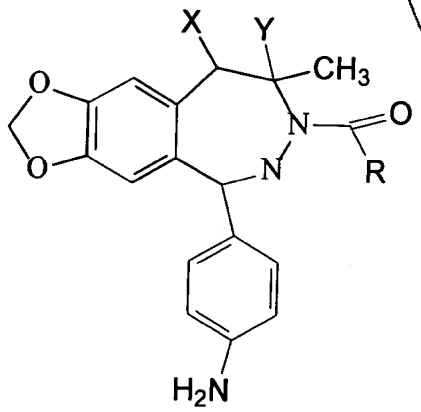
R^1 is halogen or a group of the formula NR^2R^3, wherein R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent;

with the proviso that if X and Y together form a double bond, then n is 1 or 2; or n is 0 and one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6

membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient and one or more conventional carrier(s).

16. (Four Times Amended) A method of treatment in which a patient suffering from epilepsy or being in a state after stroke is treated with a non-toxic dose of the compound of formula I,



(I)

wherein

X and Y each stand for hydrogen or together form a double bond;

R is a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-R^1-$, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2 and

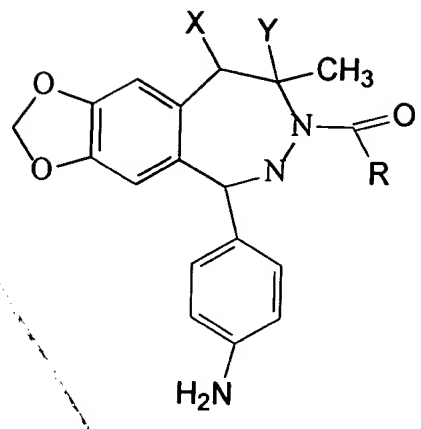
R^1 is halogen or a group of the formula NR^2R^3, wherein R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-4}

alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent;

with the proviso that if X and Y together form a double bond, then n is 1 or 2; or n is 0 and one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group sutstituent;

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof.

17. (Four Times Amended) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of epilepsy or a state after stroke, characterized in that a compound of the formula I,



(I)

wherein

X and Y each stand for hydrogen or together form a double bond;

R is a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-R^1-$, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2 and

R^1 is halogen or a group of the formula NR^2R^3, wherein R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group substituent;

with the proviso that if X and Y together form a double bond, then n is 1 or 2; or n is 0 and one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with a 5 to 6 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, which contains one nitrogen, or one nitrogen and

one oxygen atom and may optionally have an oxo group substituent;

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof, together with one or more conventional carrier(s), is converted to a pharmaceutical composition.

Please add the following new claim:

18. (new) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of (±)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-7-/N-(4-morpholinoethyl)carbamoyl/-9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine, (±)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-7-(N-cyclopropylcarbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine, (±)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-7-(N-methoxycarbamoyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine, (±)-5-(4-aminophenyl)-7-(N-aminocarbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h/-/2,3/benzodiazepine, 5-(4-aminophenyl)-8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine-7-carboxylic acid-(2-morpholino-4-ylethyl)amide, 5-(4-aminophenyl)-7-(2-chloroacetyl)-8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine, 5-(4-aminophenyl)-7-(3-chloropropionyl)-8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine, and 1-[2-/5-(4-aminophenyl)-8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine-7-yl/-2-oxoethyl] pyrrolidine-2-one monohydrate.